FAMILY LIFE

VOL. XXII, No. 10 OCTOBER, 1961 Edited by Paul Popenoe

A CHALLENGE TO TEENAGERS

Year by year, the gap between generations becomes wider in American society. Youngsters and their parents live in very largely different worlds, socially and, to some extent, physically. The young are condemned for having no sound standards of value, no purpose in life. Parents are told that they must provide all this but they are not taught how to do it. Schools assume, sometimes, that they are providing all this; but they are not really trying. The results are becoming continually more unsatisfactory all around; but something can be done. This is the thesis of sociologist James S. Coleman in a very important new book, *The Adolescent Society*.

Supported by the U.S. Office of Education, the Ford Foundation, and other sources, Dr. Coleman (chairman of the Dept. of Social Relations, Johns Hopkins Univ.) and his associates carefully surveyed the social life of high school students in 10 different areas representing various parts of the country and various socio-economic levels. They developed a picture of the status system. The results, he asserts, "are disturbing to one concerned with the ability of an open society to raise its children today and in the future."

Formerly, the family was supposed to be responsible for this job. It is not doing so, and one suggestion is that the adolescents be brought back more fully into the home. "It is a strategy which an individual family may carry out successfully, and one toward which the exhortations of ministers, family counselors, and social psychiatrists can be devoted. It seems particularly unpromising, however, as a solution for the society itself, in designing its educational system, and its programs for adolescents." The survey of 60,000 families, made by Carle C. Zimmerman and Lucius F. Cervantes, and published recently in a book called *Successful American Families* (reviewed in Family Life June, 1961) leads the reviewer to think that Dr. Coleman is taking a view that is too narrow; but no one can deny that a large part of the present families, many millions of which are broken families, can not or will not meet the need, and that the high schools must accept the responsibility.

The educational system as a whole has not shown a great unwillingness to

FAMILY LIFE
Monthly service bulletin of the
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
FAMILY RELATIONS
5287 Sunset Boulevard
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Price $1.00 a year, 10c a copy

do so. It has, by implication, suggested that the public need do no more than give it plenty of money, higher salaries for teachers ,bigger and better buildings and laboratories, and so on. "But it is simply not so," Dr. Coleman declares and cites the evidence to prove it. A survey of 10th grade pupils in Connecticut schools "showed no relation between achievement and per-pupil expenditure, when intelligence was held constant; a study of the productivity of scientists among American colleges showed that the schools with highest productivity were not the high-cost colleges, but others which had some intangible quality, though they spent less money in educating students."

The real difficulty lies in the traditional and outdated policies of educators, in their failure to use imagination and apply the resources of modern science. At present neither scholarship nor "citizenship" is attracting and employing the adolescent's energy. The teenagers are given no authority to make decisions and take action on their own, so the leaders show no responsibility to the larger institution and the followers become more and more passive.

Status, which the teenager seeks (and which he no longer finds in his own home and family) comes largely from competition and the whole framework of competition in the high schools is misplaced. The survey of this study proves it—as if anybody doubted it! But here are the facts which can not be explained away, and they point to the need of a change from athletic competition for the few, to competition in *real education* for the many. This involves a shift from interpersonal competition to intergroup competition. All sorts of "systematically organized games, tournaments, and meets in all activities ranging from mathematics and English through home economics and industrial arts to basketball and football" could be used if properly directed but Dr. Coleman particularly urges the development of "computer games," already used in management training, to condition the student to the world he will face,—an achievement that the schools are not now making satisfactorily according to this extensive evidence.

"The adolescent is no longer a child," Dr. Coleman notes (although the high school faculty usually speaks of "the children" to designate the student body made up of persons a large part of whom are enough to serve in the armed forces, or to marry and have children!) The adolescent "will spend his energy in ways that he sees fit. It is up to the adult society to so structure secondary education that it captures this energy." Dr. Coleman's detailed suggestions to this end are of far-reaching and fundamental importance. It remains to be seen how rapidly the inertia of the educational system can find room for them. Meanwhile individual parents, as he says, can take care of their own teenagers if they have the wisdom to do so.

(THE ADOLESCENT SOCIETY, by

James S. Coleman. Pp. 368, price $6.95 from The Free Press of Glencoe, a division of the Crowell-Collier Pub. Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1961.)

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Notes from the AIFR

FLOYD M. ANDERSON, ED.D., has been appointed Executive Director of the Institute, and took office on Oct.1. Dr. Anderson received his doctorate in education for marriage and family life at Teachers College, Columbia University, and has been released from his position as Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Relationship at Brigham Young University to join the AIFR staff. Paul Lloyd, Ph.D., who has been Chairman of the Board, was elected as president of the Institute while Paul Popenoe, Sc.D., who founded the Institute 32 years ago, became president emeritus. Dr. Popenoe remains a member of the board of trustees but relinquishes all administrative responsibility and will devote his time to research, lecturing, and writing, including continuing as the editor of FAMILY LIFE.

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Inexpensive Pamphlets

YOU AND YOUR HEARING, by Norton Canfield. Pp. 28, price 25c from Public Affairs Pamphlets (No. 315), 22 E. 38th st., New York 16, N.Y.

EATING IS FUN! for older people, too, Pp. 28, price 50c from American Dietetic Assn., 620 N. Michigan ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

GUIDING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG GIFTED CHILDREN, by Ann F. Isaacs. Pp. 15, price 50c from Natl. Assn. for Gifted Children, 409 Clinton Springs ave., Cincinnati 17, Ohio.

STEP LIVELY AND CONTROL WEIGHT, Pp. 5, price 3c from American Dietetic Assn., 620 N. Michigan ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

SMUT: the children's plague, by Bob Brizzolara. Price 10c from St. Jude, dept. 501, 221 W. Madison st., Chicago 6, Ill.

POGO PRIMER FOR PARENTS (*TV* DIVISION), by Walt Kelly. Pp. 24, price 20c from Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.—Publication of the Children's Bureau, giving parents helpful guidance in the relationship between their offspring and the TV receiver.

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Research Notes

HEAD BANGING, long a source of distress to parents of infants, is associated in many instances with otitis media, an infection of the inner ear, according to Vladimir de Lissovoy of the College of Home Economics, Pennsylvania State University, who has published a series of papers on the subject. He found head banging reported in 22% of boys and 7% of girls, on whom 374 mothers gave information. Age range of the children was from 19 to 32 months.

FAT CHILD, FAT ADULT seems to be the tendency, as found in a study of 98 overweight children recently completed in England. Vigorous efforts at weight reduction are advised for children who are 50% to 60% above normal, and long supervision is required to prevent relapse. The study by Dr. June K. Lloyd and others appeared in the *British Medical Journal.*

FAMILY AND YOUTH IN NEW CHINA

By DENIS LAZURE, M.D.

Life in the Chinese home has undergone major changes since 1949: Child marriages are no longer possible, since the New Marriage Law requires that the wife be over 18, the husband over 20. The ruling tyrannical mother-in-law, who used the young housewife as a servant, has lost her role—but not without desperate protest, as I realized when I saw a film in Shanghai describing the emancipation of woman.

Most rural homes still group the three generations under one roof but grandparents are also employed in "productive work," so that many homes will be empty during the day. All meals, except on holidays, are taken in the communal canteen and the housewife gets all her domestic tasks, such as laundry, ironing, mending, done by the "service stores" of the commune for a nominal charge. Consequently, when parents return home with their children around 7 p.m., they are entirely free and usually devote all their spare time to the children.

Most summer evenings will be spent outdoors with the children, gossiping with relations and neighbors, if it is a rural center, or for city folks, in one of the beautiful public parks which provide outdoor plays, cinemas, operas, concerts, acrobatics (perhaps the world's most spectacular), puppet shows and art exhibits. Repeatedly, I marvelled at docile behavior of the children, mostly of pre-school age, who seemed to be taken along shopping with their parents, or for an evening's entertainment, a lot more consistently than our Canadian children. It seems to me that those relaxing hours spent with the children make up, to a large extent, for the lack of continual contact with the mother during the day, and certainly provide for a more intensive father-child relationship than we are used to in our country, where the pre-schooler is usually put to bed very shortly after father's meal.

All the parents, educators, psychologists, and psychiatrists with whom I talked, considered corporal punishment unnecessary and harmful, although there are some exceptions as when a parent may spank a child who is having an uncontrollable temper tantrum. I was told repeatedly that this is a new philosophy taught to the parents by the Communist Party leaders who certainly feel, especially in political education, that moral persuasion achieves more than violence.

The pre-school child appears to be particularly indulged by his parents and adults in general. But from the moment he enters primary school, at age seven, the child is taught to value and respect manual work. His curriculum includes three or four hours a week of light physical tasks such as killing flies or removing weeds. As he gets into higher grades the labor becomes heavier. High school and college students will take part in building projects, as many thousands did to construct the Ming Tombs Reservoir (near Peking). By the time he reaches a professional school, the student will spend two months a year as a worker in a commune or in a city factory "in order to develop a better working class ideology," as was explained to me by the vice-dean of the Shenyang Medical School.

But this does not mean that intellectual pursuits are considered less important. On the contrary. The drive for academic success, coupled with the fear of failure, is a major preoccupation of school children. And the fear is not that they will fail to please their parents—as is usually the case in our Western societies—but rather that they will fail the state.

The interviews and the psychological testing which I conducted with many children and adolescents revealed that the youth definitely tends to identify with the state's official standards, rather than with the parents. To a large extent, Chairman Mao has become invested with all the omnipotence and benevolence that any child will seek in a father figure. For example, a 15 year old boy's recurrent dream runs as follows: "I dream I have become a model railroad worker and I am sent by my commune to a Model Worker Meeting in Peking where I meet Chairman Mao and shake hands with him!!!" Every time he has this dream, our adolescent makes "greater efforts in his studies so that it will come true."

New China is becoming a most moralistic nation in many respects. Honesty, duties to society and contempt for romantic love, had perhaps always been ingrained in the Chinese's character. But the new regime has promulgated Puritanism as a policy and logically is submitting its youth to skillful persuasion. Dating among adolescents, for example, is virtually non-existent in New China. It is considered a waste of time and a bourgeois practice.

Kao, a 23 years old, tall, handsome lad, now in his last year at the Peking Institute of Foreign Languages, served as my interpreter for about ten days. Although obviously very intelligent, Kao feels he has to study every evening "because we owe it to our foreign friends to be as perfect interpreters as we can." Saturday evening, however, he puts his books aside and goes with a co-ed to concerts, to the cinema or to a dance. Slightly blushing, my young friend denies ever having kissed a girl—not even a good-night kiss—and feels quite sure that all his peers adhere to the same prudish code. "Going steady" is unheard of, but during his last year, the Student will discreetly choose, usually among his classmates in the same field of study, a girl regarded as a *good worker* and well developed *ideologically*. Doctrinal compatibility seems to be the primary consideration. Physical attraction does not and should not, according to my friend, enter into the preoccupation of girls and boys. My observations in Peking and in the North East seemed to confirm his view, but it was unfortunate that he was no longer with me in the South where young people seem so much more aware of their "libido," particularly in Shanghai where one could see more than a dozen couples holding hands, embracing and enjoying the lovely evening in the park alongside the Wang-pu River!

Chinese educators, child psychologists and parents reject the notion, widely accepted in the West, that adolescence is a period of particular confusion and turmoil. They claim that since teen-agers can fulfill all their ambitions, thanks to the state's concern for their welfare, there is really no cause for worrying. Adolescents, on their part, seem genuinely appreciative of the new opportunities—in studies

and in work—created by the regime.

You find very little of our well-known adolescent rebellion against the parents. One sees, however, the gradual and subtle widening of the gap between the two generations, not because of hostile feelings but simply because a third party, i.e. the state, has become omnipresent and omnipotent. One cannot quite say that it stands *between* children and parents but rather *over and above them,* and that its tremendous achievements excite and fascinate most citizens, especially the younger ones.

Parents appear to have largely relinquished their authority, vis-a-vis the children, to the state and its experts. They seem to have faith and equanimity regarding the regime and the young generations. As a result, the sense of family belonging is giving place to the pride of taking part in the monumental task of building a new country.

(*Editor's note.*—Dr. Lazure, director of the dept. of child psychiatry at the University of Montreal, recently visited China and recorded this material for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The foregoing account was printed in the May, 1961, issue of *Canada's Mental Health,* published by the Dept. of Natl. Health and Welfare, Ottawa.)

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Educational Notes

ALMOST ONE-THIRD of the States in the Union either keep no central divorce records, or keep inadequate records. This is a serious handicap, not merely to statisticians and researchers, but to persons seeking information, which may be of vital importance to them, concerning a divorce or supposed divorce. The facts are reviewed by Max Rheinstein and Alexander Plateris in American Bar Assn. *Journal,* Dec., 1960.

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Around the World

WORLD MOVEMENT OF MOTHERS sponsored a congress of African mothers in Abidjan (Ivory Coast) which produced a platform of the rights of African mothers, that may be far-reaching in its influence. They urged that the dowry be limited to a symbolic value rather than reflecting on the woman's liberty and dignity; that wedding arrangements be reformed and simplified in many regions; that widows should be free to choose their own lives; and that divorce should always be accompanied by legal measures to guarantee the guardianship of children. They demanded that education prepare boys and girls alike for marriage and parenthood, with special care to develop the woman's personality. Attention was also directed to many economic and social problems which require solution.

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YOUNG ADULTS were the particular concern of the 48th Semaine Social de France, held at Reims and attended by 3500 persons representing half a hundred nations. The organization is Roman Catholic in its orientation. The conference called for education for marriage that would be, so to speak, lifelong, and broad in base,—not mere sex education; it demanded that more attention be paid to rural youth; and pointed out that any fundamental improvement must also be concerned with values and a real purpose in life.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

DIVORCE, THE CHURCH, AND REMARRIAGE, by James G. Emerson, jr. Pp. 190, price $3.95 from The Westminister Press, Witherspoon bldg., Philadelphia, Pa., 1961.

Many Christians feel that a divorced person should not remarry unless the previous partner is dead. Dr. Emerson argues that the privilege of remarriage might well be granted if the previous partner is "spiritually dead." He develops this thesis at length, and persuasively, basing his views on a consideration particularly of Reformation (especially Calvinistic) thinking and on a survey of denominational tenets in the United States at the present time. Dr. Emerson would make the minister who is asked to perform the second wedding, the judge of whether the individual feels a sense of personal failure and of forgiveness. This brief outline gives a very inadequate picture of the whole thought-provoking book; it is one that will probably be much discussed. The author is pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

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THE ART AND SKILL OF GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE, by Sylvanus M. Duvall. Pp. 246, price $4.95 from Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1961.

Understanding yourself and others is discussed with many examples, in this practical book by one of the leaders in the field of family relations. Dr. Duvall, of George Williams College, Chicago, is author of a number of books on sex and marriage and (with his wife) contributes the daily syndicated newspaper feature, *Let's explore your mind.*

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HUMAN BEHAVIOUR, by Claire Russell and W. M. S. Russell. Pp. 532, price $6.50 from Little, Brown, & Co., 34 Beaon st., Boston 6, Mass., 1961.

Mrs. Russell is a psychoanalyst; her husband has been successively a classicist, zoologist, and now concerned with integrating all these elements in an interpretation of human behavior. The book brings together an immense amount of material from all these and other sources, and the historical interpretations are particularly interesting. Why do most adults lead routine and automatic lives, when as children they were so creative and flexible? Somehow, intelligence has been corrupted! The authors undertake to show how better understanding can improve the situations, paying much attention to their concept of "pseudo-sex." The book will repay careful study.

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THE CRY FOR HELP, ed. by Norman L. Farberow and Edwin S. Shneidman. Pp. 398, price $9.95 from McGraw-Hill, 330 W. 42d st., New York 36, N.Y., 1961.

Each year about 18,000 people in the U.S. commit suicide, with painful repercussions in family life. This discussion, addressed to "theoreticians and practitioners in the broad range of human psychopathology," describes the work of agencies in Los Angeles that attempt to respond to the suicidal cry; presents therapeutic approaches from many different points of view, and ends with an extensive bibliogra-

phy. Fourteen specialists contributed to it.

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THE GIFTED: educational resources, by Porter Sargent and staff. Pp. 285, price $4 from Porter Sargent, 11 Beacon st., Boston 8, Mass., 1961.

Detailed preliminary report on existing programs of public and private schools, colleges, and foundations. Indispensable to the parent, teacher or counselor of the outstanding youngster anywhere.

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THREE TRIPS HOME, or Oedipus Revisited, by Jean Paton. Two vols., mimeographed, Pp. 214, privately published by the author, P.O. Box 37, Hillsboro, N.M., 1961.

Miss Paton is a former social worker who became interested in the after-careers of adopted children, with special reference to their knowledge or lack of knowledge of their own natural parents. Seven years ago she published a book called *The adopted break silence,* and in this new study she tells not merely of her interviews with other adults who were adopted in childhood but of her own discovery of her natural mother. She feels strongly that every human being has an inherent right to know of his own biological relationships, and she develops this idea in a most interesting and provocative consideration of the many aspects of the problem.

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GIFTASTANKAR, by Birgitta Linner. Pp. 240 (no index), price 8.50 from Tidens Forlag, Stockholm, Sweden, 1960.

A dozen writers have contributed to this book, of which the modest title, "Marriage Thoughts," scarcely represents the solid contents. It is a very practical treatise on successful marriage and parenthood. The bibliography indicates the large amount of material in Swedish on these subjects. A cheaper edition is available for schools, and questions for discussion are included. (It has also been translated into Norwegian.) Mrs. Linner is director of a marriage counseling bureau in Uppsala.

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LA CHANCE D'ETRE FEMME, by Michele Aumont. Pp. 282, price 9 NF from Collection Les Idees et la Vie, Artheme Fayard, 18-20 rue du Saint-Gothard, Paris 14, France, 1961.

The author presents both sides of many problems growing out of the fact of being a woman. Working wives tell of their experiences; those who remain as homemakers present their own side of the story. She also tackles some difficult questions: for instance, is the celibate woman a complete woman? The book discusses the whole subject of woman's place in society, delicately and intelligently.

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STRESS AND YOUR HEART, by Fred Kerner. Pp. 237, price $4.95 from Hawthorn Books, 70 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1961.

Importance of stress and tensions as causes of illness and premature aging has been developed over a quarter of a century by (Austrian-born) Dr. Hans Selye, Canadian biologist, and the appearance in 1956 of his book, *The Stress of Life,* was regarded by many authorities as epoch-making. (It was reviewed in *Family Life,* April, 1957.) It was too technical for many readers and a medical writer, Fred Kerner, has now presented the subject, even more fully, in an authorized and admirably written volume which covers more ground than the title suggests.

It gives a great deal of helpful information on relaxation, sleep, management of daily life for Senior Citizens, and other topics of prime importance. Too little stress in life is as bad as too much, but few Americans are threatened by the former! All of them can profit from Dr. Selye's findings as interpreted by Mr. Kerner.

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THE LIVING SYMBOL, by Gerhard Adler. Pp. 463, price $6 from Pantheon Books, 333 Sixth ave., New York 14, N.Y., 1961. (Bollingen Series No. 63).

This "case study in the process of individuation" relates in detail the procedures of psychoanalysis along Jungian lines. Dr. Adler is in private practice in London. The claustrophia of a woman in middle life produced the material of analysis including more than 150 dreams and numerous "active imaginations," paintings, and drawings. The reproduction of some of these in color will interest even the layman, but the work as a whole will naturally appeal mainly to the professional.

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MARRIAGE AND PERIODIC ABSTINENCE, by J. G. H. Holt. Pp. 86, (no index), price $1.95 from Longmans, Green & Co., 119 W. 40th st., New York 18, N.Y., 1960.

Second, revised edition of a book first published in 1936. The author is a Roman Catholic sexologist in the Netherlands. He considers it proved "that there is a physiological entirely sterile period during the last 11 days before menstruation;" and he also urges uses of the measurement of body temperature.

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AMERICAN WELFARE, by Alfred de Grazia and Ted Gurr. Pp. 470, price $6.50 from New York University Press, Washington Square, New York 3, N.Y., 1961.

The American welfare system, public and private, is absolutely enormous. It touches virtually every person in the nation. Each year 45,000,000 volunteers take some part in it, together with millions of paid professionals. This book is claimed to be the first that presents a sweeping view of the endless welfare panorama and it goes farther than this, offering much statistical and factual information and analysis of the various institutions (such as the family) and governments and organizations involved. Many of the agencies also participate in welfare abroad. This survey is not merely an inexhaustible reference work but a thoughtful consideration of the whole philosophy and management of welfare. Dr de Grazia is professor of government at New York University, Mr. Gurr is a research assistant.

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SEX FROM A TO Z, by Hugo G. Beigel. Pp. 444, price $2.25 paper bound or $4.75 cloth bound, from Frederick Ungar Pub. Co., 131 E. 23d st., New York 10, N.Y., 1960.

This dictionary and encyclopedia of words and ideas associated with "all aspects of human sex life" is extraordinarily comprehensive. While the treatment of many subjects is necessarily sketchy and inadequate in such a framework, the general accuracy of treatment is satisfactory. Dr. Beigel is associate professor of psychology at Long Island University, N.Y.

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Other Books Received

POPULATION AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN INDIA, by S. Chandrasekhar.

Pp. 137, paper covers (new and revised ed.), price $3 from the Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1961.

THE COMPLETE BOOK OF BIRTH CONTROL, by Alan F. Guttmacher. Pp. 152, paper covers, price 50c from Ballantine Books, 101 Fifth ave., New York 3, N.Y., 1961—Authoritative handbook by an outstanding obstetrician assisted by two publicity writers of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

SOCIETY, MANNERS, AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES, by Michael Chavelier; ed. by John William Ward. Pp. 419, no index, price $1.45 from Anchor Books, Doubleday & Co., Garden City, Long Island, N.Y., 1961—Reprint of a book by a French traveler 125 years ago; but still timely!

THE ENEMIES OF LOVE, by Dom Aelred Watkin. Pp. 118, no index, price not stated, from P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 12 Barclay st., New York 8, N.Y., 1958.—British importation; by a monk of Downside Abbey.

WHERE SHALL WE TAKE THE KIDS?, by Murray Polner and Arthur Barron. Pp. 238, paper covers, price $1.95 from Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1961. — Useful "parent's and teacher's guide to New York City;" every large city needs one like it.

DR. SPOCK TALKS WITH MOTHERS, by Benjamin Spock. Pp. 306, price $5 from Houghton Mifflin Co., 2 Park st., Boston, Mass., 1961.

Mainly a reprint of material from discussions in the Ladies Home Journal, by the best-known American pediatrician.

DISCORRIAMO DEI NOSTRI FIGLI, by Margherita Manara. Pp. 160 (paper covers, no index) from Istituto "La Casa," Via Mercalli 23, Milan, Italy.

"Talking about our children" gives an Italian mother the opportunity to discuss parent-child relationships from birth to the age of 18, with a good deal of attention paid to the religious development of the young ones.

TWENTY informative pubs. relating to juvenile delinquency, annotated list free on request to Supt. of Documents, U.S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

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ABILENE, TEXAS, City Commission is reported to have adopted a motion picture censorship ordinance under which parents can be arrested and fined if their children see "objectionable" films. Theater owners are also made legally liable. The board to enforce the measure is empowered to classify films as "acceptable," "objectionable" or "banned." The broad language of the ordinance also gives the board authority over books and magazines which may be deemed objectionable—apparently the legislators did not tackle television programs.

"THE UMBRELLA," a film about the emotional needs of children, is now available from the Film Library of the Natl. Assn. of Mental Health, 276 W. 25th st., New York, N.Y. Made in the Netherlands, it has been highly recommended for parents on this side of the Atlantic.

MANY A PROUD FATHER has passed out cigars when his wife gave birth to their first child. Now some fathers who are blessed with a second child give cigars only to other fathers with two children. And a custom is growing for the father of a third child to *receive* cigars instead of passing them out.—*Catholic Family Leader,* May, 1961.

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